

BGES is Proud to Present J. Michael Miller's Walking Tour of the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg

Wednesday, December 9th, 2009

6 PM: Check in and pick up your reading book at the Comfort Inn South, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

6:30 Opening Lecture: *Beyond McClellan: A Reflective Look at the Armies in December 1862* by Executive Director, Len Riedel. We will then go out and get a bite to eat.

Thursday, December 10th, 2009

8:00 A.M. Ambrose Burnside was finally convinced to take the command of an army that he admittedly said he was not qualified to lead—indeed he accepted the command only to prevent it from going to the ambitious Joseph Hooker. He understood Lincoln's desire for a rapid strike and continued combat. He intended to meet that expectation. We will travel to Warrenton where Burnside assumes command and discuss the Federal Army's mission and the options that Burnside has to achieve it. We will then steal a march on Lee by following Burnside to Falmouth and the impact of the war on the civilian populace. We consider Burnside's potential move to Port Royal and the failure of the federal logistics train. Now we will turn to Robert E. Lee's response ending the day at "Lee's Hill" where we will survey the terrain that attracts Lee and consider why he deploys as he does. We will return by 5:30 PM so you can have dinner on your own. Lunch will be provided.

Friday, December 11th, 2009

8 AM: After your breakfast, we will move out and return to Ambrose Burnside in whose hands rests the initiative. Today we will focus upon Franklin's crossing and the fighting on the south side of the battlefield. This will be primarily Meade's attack, Pelham's artillery and Jackson's defense of Prospect Hill. We will also go to the infamous Slaughter Pen (site of the largest private preservation purchase in history) and Bernard's Cabin. This is a full day primarily in the open fields and on preserved battlefield land. We will finish the day considering if Jackson could have counter attacked and why he didn't attempt to drive Franklin into the river. We provide lunch and a banquet dinner.

Saturday, December 12th, 2009

This program is being conducted at the same time of the year in which the battle took place—indeed 147 years ago yesterday, Burnside forced a crossing where we are today. Starting at the impressive home "Chatham" we will look at the upper crossings that were so bloodily contested by Barksdale's Mississippians. We will then cross the river and examine the middle crossing seeing homes that witnessed the drama. The street fighting was a precursor of the real slaughter that was to follow and our examination of the street fighting will lead us to lunch after which we will show you why the assaults were so difficult to mount and why they failed. Wave after wave of Federal troops thrown in a senseless and futile slaughter against a well defended stone wall. Robert E. Lee is reported to have said during the battle that "It is well war is so terrible lest we grow to

fond of it? It was a good day to be a Confederate. We provide lunch and after a discussion in the National Cemetery or out of the cold if need be, the program will conclude by 4 PM. Thanks for coming. For those flying you should be able to catch a flight after 7 PM.

The Faculty

Mike Miller is the collections archivist for the United States Marine Corps Library at Quantico, Virginia. Mike is an experienced tour leader whose clients regularly include the Commandant of the Marine Corps and senior officers of the United States Armed forces. Mike is the author of the book “Even to Hell Itself” published by HE Howard Press. He is also a preservationist of the first order and was a driving force in the preservation of the North Anna Battlefield Park.

Len Riedel is the Executive Director of the BGES and is a retired Air Force officer with a Masters degree in History. He has given numerous talks on various aspects of the war and has planned over 200 different battlefield tours.

Meeting Site and Hotel: This program will be headquartered in Fredericksburg, Virginia at the Comfort Inn Southpoint, 5422 Jefferson Davis Highway (route 1), Fredericksburg, 22407. The phone number is 540-898-5550. We have established a tour rate of \$78 plus tax single or double. This block is available until November 9th, ask for the BGES block. After this date you will be on your own space permitting with the hotel.

Airport and Transportation Arrangements: The servicing airport is Richmond (RIC) about 55 miles south or Washington Reagan (DCA) which is about 55miles north. There are shuttles, limo services and railroad connections to Fredericksburg. You can also rent a car. I do very well using Priceline.com.

Key Publications and Recommended Reading (includes shipping and handling)

You will receive a reading book and maps which will provide you with all the materials you will need to take full advantage of this registration. We offer the following reading list to enhance your advanced preparations for your participation.

_____ George Rable, **Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!** (hardback) \$45.

_____ Francis A. O'Reilly **The Fredericksburg Campaign, Winter War on the Rappahannock \$ 28**

_____ Frank O'Reilly **Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg, The Battle of Prospect Hill, December 13, 1862** out of print a few copies at fair price at Amazon.com is now collectable

BGES' 2009 Registration Form:
J. Michael Miller's
Walking Tour of the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg
December 9-12, 2009

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Registration \$350 _____ Additional Family Member \$250

_____ Deposit only—per person \$150 Net Due on or before December 9th, 2009

_____ BGES member \$300 _____ Additional Family Member \$200

_____ Teacher/ Full time student through Graduate School \$200

_____ I am not a member of the BGES send me membership information

_____ Send me the books I've indicated. I've enclosed \$ _____.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to BGES and mail to PO Box
1176, Chatham, VA 24531-1176

Or fax to 434-432-0596

Charge my Mastercard VISA American Express Discover \$ _____

_____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____